and adverse global price movements, import quantity and price triggers have been agreed as the core structural elements of the Special Safeguard Mechanism.

The Government has been holding stakeholder consultations to protect and pursue our national interest, interests of the farmers and exporters. Government is committed to safeguard food and livelihood security and rural development needs of India's agricultural sector and to achieve its development imperatives in line with the Doha mandate and subsequent decisions contained in the General Council Decision of August 1, 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to protect the intersts of all domestic stakeholdes, especially, farmers and exporters.

Expansion of ITPO Chennai

865. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Trade Promotion Organisation at Chennai is being expanded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (c) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has as Regional Office at Chennai. There is no proposal for its expansion. However, ITPO has a joint venture with Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDCO). The venture is known as Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organision (TNTPO) in which ITPO has 51% share and TIDCO has 49% share. TNTPO manages the Chennai Trade Centre. The Board of TNTPO has approved a proposal for setting up of another exhibition hall.

Discontinuance of subsidy on export of agro-products by US and EU

†866. SHRI RAJ MAHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the, sixth minister level meeting under WTO, America and European countries had agreed to discontinue subsidy on export of agro-products;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to subsidy on the production of agro-products; and

(d) if so, the details of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference was held from 13-18 December 2005 at Hong Kong. A Ministerial Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of Hong Kong Minsiterial Conference, copy of which has been provided to the Library of both the Houses of Parliament—Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for reference by Hon'ble Members'. The key outcomes and timelines on agriculture are as follows:

- Resolved to complete the Doha Work Programme fully and conclude negotiations in 2006.
- to estbalish modalities in agriculture by 30 April 2006; draft schedules to be submitted by July 31, 2006.
- To eliminate export subsidies by 2013, with substantial part in the first half of implementation period, elimination of cotton export subsidies by developed countries by 2006.
- Developing countries will continue to benefit from the provisions on marketing and transport subsidies on agricultural exports for five years after the end date for elimination of all forms of export subsidies.
- On trade distorting domestic support, the three heaviest subsidizers to attract steepest cuts; developing countries like India, with no AMS, will be exempt from any cuts on *de minimis* and on overall levels.
- Developing countries to have the flexibility to self-designate Special Products; price and quantity triggers for the Special Safeguard Mechanism.
- In Cotton, export subsidies to be eliminated by developed countries in 2006; trade distorting domestic subsidies to be reduced more ambitiously and over a shorter period of time.